Saskatchewan Centennial 2005

100 YEARS OF HEART

2005-2006 PROVINCIAL BUDGET PERFORMANCE PLAN

SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED AUTHORITY

105-05073/

Minister's Message

It is my pleasure to present the performance plan for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority for 2005-2006 and beyond.

Water, one of our most precious natural resources, is essential to sustain human life as well as the health and sustainability of our environment. Saskatchewan's watersheds and aquifers are the source of our water for drinking and other domestic uses. These source waters support agriculture as well as other industries and are an essential resource for future economic development. Saskatchewan's lakes and rivers are critical components of our ecosystems and provide recreational opportunities to our citizens as well as to visitors from around the world.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has a mandate to protect and manage our water supplies, including all surface and ground water. This performance plan is focused on advancing effective water management and stewardship in Saskatchewan, to ensure safe and secure water supplies for our citizens.

Many of the key activities and initiatives are already well underway, including the implementation of a new watershed planning model, development of effective watershed monitoring and assessment protocols, and a long-term initiative to strengthen and renew our water management infrastructure such as dams, weirs and conveyance channels.

Public consultations on water conservation were conducted in January to March 2005. A water conservation plan for Saskatchewan will be released this year. I am particularly pleased that this work will come to completion during our Centennial year. Our Centennial provides an opportunity for reflection on our accomplishments and our needs. Water is of such importance to our people, our economy and our environment that our Provincial Centennial is an excellent time to reflect on how we use water.

I am committed to completing the key actions identified in our performance plan and reporting on the Authority's progress to the people of Saskatchewan, in the Authority's annual report in July 2006.

The effective stewardship of our water is a responsibility shared by all. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is committed to working with all Saskatchewan citizens, with residential, agricultural, industrial and recreational users, with aboriginal interests, local governments and stewardship groups to manage, protect and restore our Province's source waters, now and in the future.

David Forbes
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Who We Are

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority manages and protects water quantity and source water quality in Saskatchewan. The Authority also co-ordinates the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in Saskatchewan and does project work to conserve aquatic ecosystems. The Authority works within the framework of Saskatchewan's Safe Drinking Water Strategy. A copy of the 2005-06 Performance Plan for the Safe Drinking Water Strategy is available on-line (www.se.gov.sk.ca/environment/protection/water/drinking.asp).

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority currently has 191 employees (181.3 Full Time Equivalents). The Authority's head office is located in Moose Jaw, but many services and programs are delivered through its regions and other offices located in Nipawin, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn and Yorkton. We encourage you to learn more about the Authority and its programs by visiting our website (www.swa.ca).

The Authority's work is focussed on three main areas:

PROTECTING WATERSHEDS

Watershed and aquifer planning has been initiated in seven areas to protect source water. The Authority's stewardship and extension programs assist landowners to improve watershed health through restoration of riparian areas, wetland and grassland protection, and encouragement of management practices which support fish and wildlife and protect water sources.

Assessing the health of the watersheds is an essential aspect of source water protection. The Authority will publish a framework for State of Watershed Reporting this year.

Public support and participation is essential to protect source water. The Authority therefore works with partners in the Safe Drinking Water Strategy to deliver education and information programs to create awareness and understanding of water and watershed issues.

MANAGING WATER SUPPLIES

The Authority provides hydrology expertise to determine water supplies, guide allocations, and predict floods and direct operation of dams. All major water allocations including municipal, industrial, irrigation, and intensive livestock uses must be approved by the Authority. Authority staff also represent Saskatchewan on trans-boundary water issues.

Much of Saskatchewan depends on groundwater. To protect this resource, the Authority licenses all but domestic users to ensure water uses are sustainable and new development does not impact existing users. The Authority also conducts research to determine groundwater supplies and provides information to citizens and industry to help locate groundwater sources.

The Authority handles formal and informal complaints about drainage causing damage and may rule and enforce remedies, such as ditch blocks.

REHABILITATION OF SASKATCHEWAN'S WATER MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

To manage surface water supplies, the Authority maintains and operates Provincial water management infrastructure, including 45 dams and 130 kilometres of conveyance channels plus ancillary works. These include Gardiner, Qu'Appelle, Rafferty and Alameda dams. The Authority invests significantly each year in maintenance, rehabilitation and upgrading of this infrastructure.

The Authority also provides financial support to Conservation and Development Area Authorities and municipalities to assist with maintenance and rehabilitation of locally owned infrastructure.

Plan at a Glance

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority was created in October 2002. This second publicly released performance plan builds on the progress achieved through the 2004-05 plan. The goals and objectives stated are long-term in nature, which the Authority will work toward over a number of years. The plan also states the key actions the Authority will undertake in 2005-06 to further its objectives and will report on in its 2005-06 Annual Report. A good plan must evolve as circumstances change. The Authority will review its goals and objectives annually, develop new key actions and work to develop a more complete set of performance measures. Three new performance measures have been added this year, and additional measures continue to be developed.

Vision – Excellence in watershed management promoting safe, sustainable water supplies in healthy ecosystems

GOAL #1

Safe and sustainable water supply

OBJECTIVE 1 - *Water management infrastructure is safe and meets operational requirements*

Performance Measures:

- Risk ratio for the Province's water management infrastructure
- Number of dams requiring significant upgrades to meet dam safety standards

OBJECTIVE 2 - *Water supply is reliable*

Performance Measure:

- Number of detailed assessments conducted on water allocations for industrial projects

OBJECTIVE 3 - *Flood damage is minimized*

Performance Measures:

- Number of urban municipalities adopting acceptable flood hazard zoning bylaws
- Per cent of flood susceptibility studies on new subdivisions forwarded to Government Relations within 30 days

GOAL #2

Healthy watersheds and aquifers

OBJECTIVE 1 - *Source waters and watersheds are protected*

Performance Measures:

- Number of completed watershed and aquifer plans
- Water Quality Index (WQI) ratings for watersheds within the Province

OBJECTIVE 2 - *Public is aware of the importance of healthy watersheds*

Performance Measures:

- Number of teachers attending Project WILD and Project WET workshops

2005-06 Financial Overview

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's revenues include grants from the Government of Saskatchewan's General Revenue Fund and Fish and Wildlife Development Fund as well as other revenues comprised of various charges on water use. In 2005-06 the Authority will receive General Revenue Fund monies as a grant through Saskatchewan Environment of $6.165 million for the following purposes:

	(in thousands of dollars)
Operations	$ 419
Water control	776
Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation	3,139
Water quality	1,831

A breakdown of the Authority's 2005-06 budgeted revenues and expenditures by major area is provided below.

REVENUE	*(in thousands of dollars)*
Government of Saskatchewan	
– General Revenue Fund	$ 6,165
– Fish & Wildlife Development Fund	878
Water revenue	11,470
Contract revenue	400
Other	1,566
Total	$ 20,479

EXPENDITURES	*(in thousands of dollars)*
Operations	$ 7,429
Water management	5,534
Grants to clients	1,246
Water management infrastructure	288
Stewardship	3,085
Interest	46
Depreciation – infrastructure	3,263
Total	$ 20,891
Surplus (deficit) for the year	$ (412)

The Authority, in accordance with the Public Sector Accounting Board's standards, capitalizes its assets such as dams, and depreciates them over time. This depreciation is recorded as an expense on its statement of revenue and expenditures. For 2005-06 the Authority has budgeted new capital expenditures of $2.851 million and depreciation of $3.263 million. The net impact of the difference between these figures on the budgeted surplus (deficit) is an increased expense of $412 million. Therefore, the Authority's entire budgeted deficit is attributable to the impact of depreciation.

Total depreciation and total deficit are reduced from last year. At the time that the 2004-05 budget was being developed the valuation and depreciation exercise was not complete, therefore, depreciation expense was budgeted at the prior year's level. The more rigorous valuation process concluded with the Authority's auditors calculated the annual depreciation expense to be lower than budgeted for 2004-05.

Trends and Issues

A series of issues and trends affect Saskatchewan's water resources. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is considering and responding to these issues as it develops its policies and programs.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

There is growing awareness of the importance of water supplies to our environment, society and economy and increasing awareness that water supplies are at risk. The growing importance of water is reflected in the statement by Donald J. Johnston, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, "Indeed, some are saying that water will be the challenge of the 21st century in the way oil has been since the 20th." Many provinces, such as Alberta with their "Water For Life" strategy, and Quebec with the "Quebec Water Policy", are increasing efforts to protect water. This work, to protect the quality and quantity of surface and ground water supplies is generally referred to as source water protection.

WETLANDS AND DRAINAGE

Although drainage is regulated by the Province, significant unauthorized drainage occurs. This impacts biodiversity, the local hydrological cycle and is contrary to the intent of the Saskatchewan Wetland Policy which calls for maintaining the diversity, numbers and productive capacity of wetlands. Drainage can also create problems for downstream landowners. The Authority investigates complaints from affected landowners. This requires a significant amount of staff time.

INSTREAM FLOW NEEDS

The Province derives value from the instream use of water for the maintenance of aquatic ecosystems. The Authority considers instream flow needs in its allocation of water and the operation of control structures, but without a formalized process for assessing those needs. As the Authority develops a better understanding of the significance of instream flow needs, we will continue to assess the amount of water available for allocation to consumptive uses and the operating rules for structures.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

The Authority operates and maintains Provincial water management infrastructure, including such major structures as the Gardiner Dam and the Qu'Appelle River Dam in the South Saskatchewan River basin, and the Rafferty and Alameda dams in the Souris River basin. These works are an essential component of the provinces water supply. Like all capital works they deteriorate over time and require capital expenditure and maintenance to ensure both safety and ability to operate to meet water supply needs.

CLIMATE CHANGE

There is broad consensus that the global temperature is rising and, although the implications for Saskatchewan are not yet clear, it is expected that the Province will have warmer winters and more extremes of temperature and precipitation. Water supplies are likely to be affected, including reduced summer flow, an increase in frequency and magnitude of flooding and drought, higher water temperatures, increased evaporation, and changes to groundwater recharge and discharge. Water demand by all segments of society is likely to grow. With greater variability comes less predictability and the very real possibility of less water. Implications include less energy production and lower limits on the water-based development that can be sustained as well as dramatic impacts on natural wetland areas.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WATER

The Government has identified rural revitalization as a priority, with initiatives to provide stimulation in a number of sectors, such as intensive livestock operations, oil and gas, and irrigation. These will place increasing pressure on the Province's water resources. In 2004, Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation Inc. released its "50 Year Master Plan for Water" which identified the importance of water as an economic resource and called for significant investments to develop water supplies, for increased irrigation and other initiatives, as a means of rural economic development. The Authority will have a significant role in ensuring that any long-term plans for water based economic development are environmentally sustainable.

Changes from 2004-05 Performance Plan

The goals and objectives included in the Authority's 2005-06 Performance Plan are unchanged from 2004-05. Three new performance measures have been added to the plan:

- Number of detailed assessments conducted on water allocations for industrial projects
- Per cent of flood susceptibility studies on new subdivisions forwarded to Government Relations within 30 days
- Number of teachers attending Project WET and Project WILD workshops

These new performance measures increase the reader's ability to assess performance results and provide at least one performance measure for each objective in the plan. The Authority will continue to develop a suite of performance measures which allows the reader to effectively assess performance.

Goals, Objectives, Actions and Measures

This section provides the detailed 2005-06 Performance Plan for the Authority. Under each goal a number of objectives have been established that support progress towards the broader goal statement. For each objective, a set of key actions, the means for making progress toward the objectives, has been identified which the Authority is committed to completing in 2005-06. Performance measures have been established for each objective, with others under development, to gauge progress towards meeting the objective.

The Watershed Authority budget includes fees for water use including water power rental charges, which are royalties imposed by the Province on hydro electric producers (SaskPower). This revenue stream constitutes approximately one half of the Authority's total annual revenues and represents the single largest revenue source within the annual budget. This revenue stream is variable with weather conditions; revenue shortfalls can be expected in dry years and surpluses in wet years. Of a total revenue budget of approximately $10 million, fluctuations of up to $3 million could occur in any given year. The Authority budgets for an average water flow year and, to allow program stability, plans to retain surplus revenue in high water years to cover shortfalls in low flow years.

GOAL #1

Safe and sustainable water supply

OBJECTIVE 1 *- Water management infrastructure is safe and meets operational requirements*

The Watershed Authority operates and maintains 45 water control structures and 130 kilometres of conveyance channels for the Province. These works are an essential part of the Province's water management infrastructure. They control the flow of water to improve water quality, ensure adequate supply, reduce the risk of flood damage, enhance recreational opportunities and maintain aquatic habitat. Four of the dams, Gardiner, Qu'Appelle, Rafferty and Alameda, would have major consequences from down stream flooding, including property damage and risk of loss of life, if they failed. Like all capital assets, these works depreciate and require a continuous investment in maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure their safety and ability to operate to meet the Province's needs.

Key Actions for 2005-06

- Proceed with capital expenditures to ensure that water infrastructure is safe and fully operational
  - ~ Proceed with the rehabilitation of Katepwa Lake Timber Weir and the Lac La Ronge Control Structure

- ~ Undertake pump station upgrading at the Pike Lake Project. Complete project rehabilitation work carried over from 2004-05 at Avonlea Dam, Cowan Lake Control Structure and Hugonard Dam
- ~ Continue design work and environmental assessment for the Upper Qu'Appelle River Conveyance Project

- Manage the risk associated with water management infrastructure
  - ~ Complete a dam break analysis of Alameda Dam
  - ~ Initiate a dam break analysis for the Qu'Appelle Dam
  - ~ Prepare an Operation, Maintenance and Surveillance Manual for Avonlea Dam
  - ~ Complete a study assessing the need for Provincial dam safety legislation
  - ~ Complete a policy to identify opportunities to enhance ecosystem benefits beyond regulatory requirements for new and rehabilitated infrastructure
  - ~ Perform scheduled technical maintenance at 10 dams, and comprehensive works inspections at five dams

What are we measuring?	**Where are we starting from?**
Risk ratio for the Province's water management infrastructure	0.147 *[2003-04]*

This measure is a ratio of the aggregated assessed risk of all the Authority's water management infrastructure at a given time, compared to the maximum possible risk generated by this infrastructure. Risk, defined as the likelihood of a failure multiplied by the consequences of a failure, has been assessed in relative values. Numerically this may be expressed as:

$$\text{Risk Ratio} = \frac{\Sigma \text{ Assessed Current Risk}}{\Sigma \text{ Total Possible Risk}}$$

This measure gauges the Authority's progress in upgrading its infrastructure to acceptable standards and quantifies the overall risk of the water management infrastructure. A lower ratio indicates safer infrastructure, with a ratio of 0 indicating no current assessed risk. As the Authority owns the structures, its influence on this measure is high, but upgrades to reduce risk require significant investments and will therefore be made over a number of years.

What are we measuring?	**Where are we starting from?**
Number of dams requiring significant upgrades to meet dam safety standards	27 *[2003-04]*

The Authority, like all provincial governments and major utilities across Canada, has adopted the Dam Safety Guidelines prepared by the Canada Dam Association (www.cda.ca). This measure quantifies the number of provincial dams which require upgrades to meet the Canada Dam Association Dam Safety Guidelines. The Authority has a high level of influence over this measure.

OBJECTIVE 2 - *Water supply is reliable*

The Province has a long history of allocating supplies for various uses that remove water from the source water bodies; such as for domestic, municipal, industrial, and irrigation purposes. Our objective, in controlling water use, is to ensure needs are met and a new user does not take water already depended on by another person or business. Instream use of water is also important to the health of aquatic ecosystems.

Operation of provincial projects, such as the Authority's major dams and SaskPower's hydro operations, requires careful planning to achieve project objectives and minimize negative impacts on other uses of the resource. Reliable and extensive data are essential to the forecasting required for operation planning.

There is a consensus among most climatologists that the earth's temperature is rising, leading to effects on other meteorological elements such as rain and snow, wind and the frequency of severe storms. These changes will impact on the Province's water supply.

The current performance measure examines one aspect of the work needed to manage demand for water, but does not, by itself, provide an overall evaluation of success in ensuring a reliable water supply. The Authority is examining options for additional performance measures including use of the ground water well observation network and intends to bring additional performance measures forward in the next performance plan.

Key Actions for 2005-06

- Complete and release a comprehensive Water Conservation Plan by December 2005.
- Represent provincial water management interests to meet First Nations, inter-provincial and inter-national obligations through:
  - ~ Participating in negotiations with the Federal Government and Qu'Appelle Valley First Nations to resolve flood claims
  - ~ Participating in the activities of the Prairie Provinces Water Board, Souris River International Board and Mackenzie Basin Board
- Continue to refine and improve knowledge of provincial groundwater resources by developing a long-term strategy to maintain a ground water observation network.
- Provide information on water supplies to users, provide weekly and monthly water supply forecasts to Saskatchewan public, and direct the operations at SaskPower's hydroelectric generating facilities and advise Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration on the operation of their structures in southwest Saskatchewan and on the Qu'Appelle River.

- Introduce legislative amendments to create a faster and more effective drainage dispute resolution process.
- Review and revise operating plans for five of the 45 major Authority owned structures, including public consultation where necessary.
- Allocate water and regulate water works through the issuance of Water Rights Licences, and Approvals to Construct and/or Operate, in a sustainable manner balancing water quality, environmental, social and economic objectives.
- Continue to conduct water use audits of municipal, industrial/commercial and agricultural projects to ensure users are in compliance with water rights conditions and water usage is within allocated amounts.

What are we measuring?	**Where are we starting from?**
Number of detailed assessments conducted on water allocations for industrial projects	0 *[2004-05]*

The Authority allocates water to industrial projects and imposes conditions such as reporting of water use, limit when water can be withdrawn, term of licence and no transfer of licence without prior approval of the Authority. The Authority conducts detailed assessments of industrial projects to determine actual water use and to determine if water use conditions imposed by the Authority are appropriate or should be modified. We are measuring the number of these assessments conducted.

The assessments will determine the need for the Authority to modify existing licenses and whether or not to consider adding new conditions to future licenses. The Authority has a high level of influence over this measure.

OBJECTIVE 3 *- Flood damage is minimized*

Floods can impose significant costs in property damage and loss of production. The Authority works to minimize flood damage through the use of water management infrastructure and by predicting areas at risk of flooding to guide other departments, municipalities and business in reducing flood risk. Dams, dykes and ditches can reduce the size and duration of floods while proper management of development in flood plains avoids the large costs in property damage which could otherwise occur in a major flood.

The Authority has developed two performance measures for this objective, but both show progress on only small portions of the overall flood damage issue. The Authority is working to find additional good final outcome measures. Finding good measures is challenging because flooding is a rare event, and therefore fluctuates significantly from year to year.

Key Actions for 2005-06

- Review and update Gardiner Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Initiate preparation of Alameda Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Complete the Flood Damage Reduction Program mapping for Estevan and Weyburn and initiate updating the flood plain mapping for Prince Albert and Swift Current.
- Evaluate the flood susceptibility of all proposed subdivisions forwarded by Government Relations for review under *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*, and make recommendations to Community Planning Branch of Saskatchewan Government Relations on flood susceptibility.
- Provide technical and financial support to Conservation and Development Area Authorities and Watershed Associations to maintain/rehabilitate locally owned existing water control infrastructure.
- Initiate engineering assessments to determine the current physical condition of the water control infrastructure owned by Conservation and Development Area Authorities and Watershed Associations and of flood control infrastructure developed with provincial assistance by urban municipalities.

What are we measuring?	**Where are we starting from?**
Number of urban municipalities adopting acceptable flood hazard zoning bylaws	16 *[2004-05]*

This measure quantifies the number of urban municipalities adopting acceptable flood hazard zoning bylaws. Flood damages are largely, though not exclusively, associated with urban development in flood prone areas, therefore one of the most effective ways of minimizing flood damage costs is by preventing inappropriate development in these areas. Given this decision is made by each municipality, the results for this measure will largely be out of the control of the Authority, however, the Authority can influence this measure by providing information on flood risk.

What are we measuring?	**Where are we starting from?**
Per cent of flood susceptibility studies on new subdivisions forwarded to Government Relations within 30 days	34% *[2004-05]*

Under *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is requested to review proposed subdivisions to determine flood risk to the property. The assessment and comments are forwarded to Government Relations for their evaluation of the proposed subdivisions. We are measuring the proportion of flood susceptibility studies of proposed subdivisions forward by Government Relations for review completed within 30 days.

The determination of flood risk and susceptibility is key to minimization of flood damages. If the proposed subdivision of land is susceptible to flooding, new development in the flood plain can be prevented or restricted to minimize flood damages. The Authority has a significant level of influence over the measurement results.

GOAL #2

Healthy watersheds and aquifers

OBJECTIVE 1 - *Source waters and watersheds are protected*

The people of Saskatchewan depend on both surface and groundwater sources for their basic human needs and to generate economic activity. Proper siting of a water supply and aggressively protecting it from potential contaminants are keys to providing a safe water supply.

It is recognized that a multiple barrier approach protecting from the source to the tap is the most effective way of protecting drinking water quality. Controls to provide multi- barrier protection to source waters are being developed and put into place.

Key Actions for 2005-06

- Watershed planning provides the basis for decision-making
  - ~ Complete source water protection plans for the Assiniboine and Moose Jaw River watersheds, and the Yorkton Aquifer, through the development of recommendations and the identification of key actions
  - ~ Finalize objectives and undertake data analyses in the Lower Souris, Upper Qu'Appelle, South Saskatchewan and North Saskatchewan River watersheds
  - ~ Participate in the development of a river model for instream flow needs for the Saskatchewan River downstream of E.B. Campbell Dam
  - ~ Prepare and publish a State of the Watershed Report
- Ensure that watersheds are protected
  - ~ Complete a Drainage Policy which will guide government approach to regulating and managing drainage and wetland retention issues
  - ~ Work with partners to prepare a strategic plan for North American Waterfowl Management Plan programs in the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture
  - ~ Increase awareness of the relationships between agricultural activities, source water protection and ecological function through extension activities and the development of best management practices plans with a minimum of 300 producers

What are we measuring?

Number of completed watershed and aquifer plans

Where are we starting from?

Zero plans completed, seven plans are under development

[2004-05]

Watershed and aquifer plans guide activities for source water protection. Watershed planning allows Saskatchewan residents the opportunity to commit to and participate in changes that will ensure adequate and quality drinking water. The completed plans will set priorities and identify emerging issues.

The Authority leads the planning process, but community representatives develop the plans. The Authority thus shares influence on this measure with the communities in the watersheds.

What are we measuring?

Water Quality Index ratings for watersheds within the Province

Where are we starting from?

Excellent
Churchill River

Good to Excellent
Assiniboine River, Beaver River, North Saskatchewan, South Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan River Basin

Fair to Good
Qu'Appelle River, Souris River*

Poor to Fair
*Moose Jaw River***

[March 2004]

* *There are two locations in the Qu'Appelle Basin where the quality would be considered marginal for protection of aquatic life. The basin ranges from fair to excellent for livestock watering and irrigation purposes.*

** *Major water quality concerns along the Moose Jaw River stem from nutrients and suspended solids from man-made sources (waste water discharge and agricultural activities) and natural variation (flow, run-off and snow melt).*

The Water Quality Index is an overall measure of the quality of water for specific uses such as the protection of aquatic life, livestock watering, and recreation. The Index is a composite of different chemicals and organisms in the water at safe levels for a particular use. It is a good measure of the quality of surface or groundwater.

The Government has limited direct control over the results of this broad measure of water quality. Samples are collected by industries and municipalities in accordance with their permits, as well as by government staff. The levels of chemicals and organisms in the samples are compared with the Water Quality Index levels for safety and health of the people.

The assessment of all watersheds using the Water Quality Index is a long-term project. Saskatchewan Environment will be using the data collected from its primary monitoring stations on the trans-boundary watersheds.

OBJECTIVE 2 - *Public is aware of the importance of healthy watersheds*

Many actions to protect water can only be accomplished at the initiative of or in partnership with the citizens of the Province. Success of the Watershed Authority's programs is therefore dependant on the public's understanding of the importance and benefits of source water protection.

The current performance measure only examines school based educational programs which, while important, are only 1 aspect of creating public awareness. The Authority is currently developing polling data which it hopes to be able to present as a second and broader performance measure for our next plan.

Key Actions for 2005-06

- Develop and implement communication plans to support the watershed and aquifer planning processes.
- Develop an education and awareness program promoting water conservation.
- Promote watershed stewardship by publishing the Prairie Update newsletter and promoting best management practices through the weekly press, partner communication vehicles, signage and trade show displays.
- Enhance Authority sponsored educational programs
  - ~ Expand the core group of trained facilitators who assist with the delivery of environmental education programs (Project WET, Project WILD), which are directly linked to the Saskatchewan curricula
  - ~ Assist facilitators to deliver workshops to teachers in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 system and to students in the Faculty of Education (University of Regina) and the College of Education (University of Saskatchewan)
- Develop a native prairie teacher activity guide, linked to the Saskatchewan curriculum, for grades 1 to 5 and make it available on the Authority's website.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of teachers attending Project WET and Project WILD workshops annually	128 Project WET 196 Project WILD *[June 2004]*

The Authority uses two school based programs, Project WET and Project WILD, as its major programs to educate school children about water and aquatic ecosystems. Both are made available to teachers through workshops, which train teachers in the use of material and at which material is provided. Our performance measure is the number of teachers attending full day certification and part day refresher Project WILD and Project WET workshops. This statistic is easily tracked and relates directly to actual use of our education materials in the classroom. The Authority has moderate influence over the measure through its work arranging workshops and marketing the program, although participation is up to individual teachers and schools.

For More Information

This plan sets out what we hope to accomplish in the coming year. If you have questions or comments, or would like additional copies of the plan please call the Authority's head office in Moose Jaw at 306-694-3900 or the Provincial Water Inquiry Line toll free at 1-866-SASK-H2O (1-866-727-5420) or email us at (comm@swa.ca). Written comments should be addressed to:

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
111 Fairford Street East
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, S6H 7X9

We also invite you to visit the Authority's website (www.swa.ca). At this site you will find:

- this performance plan
- news releases
- information on watershed planning
- information on our water conservation consultation
- flood advisories
- provincial stream flow forecasts
- information on ground water
- information on the dams and reservoirs operated by the Authority
- Authority publications